

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 10–13, 16–20, 23–28, and 35–39, 41, and 42 are pending in the present application. Of these, no claims have been amended, Claims 20, 23, and 24 have been canceled, and no claims have been added, leaving Claims 1, 6, 8, 10–13, 16–19, 25–28, 35–39, 41, and 42 for consideration upon entry of the Amendment.

Allowable Claims

Applicants wish to sincerely thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1, 6, 8, 10–13, 16–20, 25–28, 35–39, 41, and 42, and respectfully request the entry of the above amendments, described below, to conclude prosecution of these instant claims and facilitate the passage of these claims to allowance.

Canceled Claims

Claims 20, 23, and 24 have each been canceled without prejudice to expedite the conclusion of prosecution of the pending claims. As the only amendment being entered with this response is the cancellation of the aforementioned claims, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment as an amendment after final under 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)(1).

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments/cancellations.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested based upon the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a)

Claims 20, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over, U.S. Patent No. 6,455,650 (“Lipian”).

Claims 20, 23, and 24, as noted above, have been canceled without prejudice and therefore the rejection of these claims over the cited art is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the remaining claims (already indicated as allowed in the Final Office Action dated September 15, 2008) is therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the

Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,
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